

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-10. (Canceled)

11. (New) A method of pulverising frangible material, comprising:
sucking air through an air inlet located upstream of a venturi and then through the venturi,
wherein a flow through the venturi is at a speed equal to or in excess of Mach 1, and
feeding pieces of the frangible material to be pulverised in the air flowing to the venturi at a point between said air inlet and said venturi,
wherein said feeding entrains said pieces of the frangible material in the air flowing to the venturi and carries the pieces to the venturi by the flowing air.
12. (New) The method of claim 11, further comprising:
separating said frangible pieces into a stream of pieces which reach said venturi in succession.
13. (New) The method of claim 12, further comprising:
screening said frangible material and preventing material pieces larger than a predetermined size from reaching said venturi.
14. (New) The method of claim 11, further comprising:
pulverising the frangible material by a shock wave acting at an upstream position with respect to the venturi,
wherein said shock wave is produced by an interaction between the frangible material, the flowing air, and the venturi.

15. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein said venturi comprises:
a throat,
a convergent portion which decreases in a first cross-sectional area from an air inlet end thereof to said throat, and
a divergent portion which increases in a second cross-sectional area from said throat to an air outlet end thereof.
16. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein said convergent and divergent portions are both circular in cross section.
17. (New) The method of claim 11, further comprising:
screening the frangible material and preventing pieces of greater than a predetermined size from reaching said venturi.
18. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein feeding comprises:
feeding said pieces of frangible material as a stream of pieces which are spaced apart in a direction in which said stream of pieces is traveling.
19. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein said means for feeding comprises an inclined rotatable feed screw.